

Mountain State Reporter

RELEASED: MARCH 2005

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 3

This Issue:



LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

January Red Meat Production

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during January 2005 totaled 600,000 pounds. This was down 15 percent from January 2004, and down 27 percent from December 2004 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 868,000 pounds live weight, down 9 percent from January 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 900 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 942 pounds, was up 8 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 154,000 pounds live weight, down 21 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 600 head, down 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 259 pounds, was up 2 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

UNITED STATES— Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.65 billion pounds in January, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in January 2004.

Beef production, at 1.92 billion pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.53 million head, down 2 percent from January 2004. The average live weight was 1,262 pounds, up 13 pounds from January a year ago.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 17 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,700 head, down 14 percent from January 2004. The average live weight was 329 pounds, down 7 pounds from January a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.48 million head, 4 percent below January 2004. The average live weight was 270 pounds, up 1 pound from January a year ago.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.4 million pounds, was down 7 percent from January 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 208,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 3 pounds from January a year ago.

January 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays. **January 2005** contained 21 weekdays (including one holiday) and 5 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

January Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.61 billion during January 2005, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.52 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2005 averaged 348 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,188 eggs, up slightly from January 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2005, totaled 348 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 348 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2005, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 4 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during January totaled 36.8 million, up 4 percent from January 2004. **Eggs in incubators** totaled 33.3 million on February 1, 2005, up 9 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 157,000 during January 2005, down 4 percent from January 2004.

Broiler Hatch Up 3 Percent

The January 2005 **hatch of broiler-type chicks**, at 796 million, was up 3 percent from January of the previous year. There were

654 million eggs in incubators on February 1, 2005, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 6.29 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2005, down 8 percent from January 2004.

HONEY PRODUCTION

2004 West Virginia Honey Production

WEST VIRGINIA –Honey production in 2004 from producers with **five or more colonies** totaled 495,000 pounds, up 119,000 pounds from 2003. There were 9,000 **producing colonies** in 2004, up 1,000 colonies from 2003. **Yield per colony** averaged 55 pounds, up 8 pounds from 47 in 2003. **Honey stocks** on December 15, 2004, were reported at 183,000 pounds, down 11,000 pounds from the amount reported in 2003.

Prices for the 2004 crop averaged 142 cents per pound, compared to 189 cents per pound in 2003. Value of production totaled 703,000 dollars, down 8,000 dollars from 2003.

UNITED STATES –Honey production in 2004 from producers with **five or more colonies** totaled 184 million pounds, up 1 percent from 2003. There were 2.56 million **colonies producing honey** in 2004, down 2 percent from 2003. **Yield per colony** averaged 71.8 pounds, up 3 percent from the 69.9 pounds in 2003. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State where the honey was produced; therefore, yields per colony may be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer **honey stocks** were 61.2 million pounds on December 15, 2004, up 50 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Down 22 Percent

Honey prices decreased during 2004 to 108.5 cents, down 22 percent from 138.7 cents in 2003. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2004 were lower than the previous year for all color classes except the All Other Honey, Area Specialties class. Honey prices for 2003 crop honey reflect honey sold in 2003 and 2004.

FARM LABOR

Hired Workers Down 12 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 749,000 **hired workers** on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2005, down 12 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 574,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 175,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an **average wage** of \$9.81 per hour during the January 2005 reference week, up 40 cents from a year earlier. **Field workers** received an average of \$8.73 per hour, up 34 cents from last January, while **livestock workers** earned \$9.19 per hour compared with \$8.83 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.91 per hour, was up 36 cents from last year.

The **number of hours worked** averaged 36.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 3 percent from a year ago.

The largest **decreases in the number of hired farm workers** from last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions. In California, record rainfall prior to and during the reference week severely curtailed field activities in the southern half of the State. Elsewhere, cool, foggy conditions persisted. Therefore, the demand for hired workers was down considerably. The Florida hurricanes of 2004 severely damaged or destroyed several large nurseries, lessening the need for hired workers. In the Southern Plains, heavy rains in Texas slowed vegetable planting and cotton harvest, so fewer workers were required. Lower inventories of hogs and dairy cattle in the Lake region lessened the demand for hired workers. In the Appalachian II region, unseasonably warm weather for most of the reference week was in sharp contrast to last year, when a major winter snowstorm in Tennessee had caused peak demand for livestock workers.

The largest **increases in the number of hired farm workers** from a year ago were in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Northeast I (New England and New York) regions. In the Corn Belt I region, a snowstorm and flooding in Indiana led to more supplemental feeding and livestock care, increasing the need for hired workers. Dry conditions prevailed over most of the Northern Plains region and allowed for increased movement of grain to market. Therefore, more hired workers were required. In the Mountain III region, vegetable harvest in Arizona was in full swing, necessitating more field workers. A return to more normal weather conditions in the Northeast I region compared to last year's Arctic cold snap led to a slightly higher demand for hired workers.

Hired farm worker **wage rates** were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Southern Plains, Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Florida, and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions. The higher wages in the Southern Plains were due to a larger concentration of full time workers in the work force. In the Mountain I region, wages were up due to a higher percentage of skilled machine operators in the work force. Wages in Florida and the Pacific region were higher because of more salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed their hourly wage higher.

CATTLE ON FEED

U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on February 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above February 1, 2004 and 6 percent above February 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.89 million, 7 percent above 2004, but 10 percent below 2003. Net placements were 1.81 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000, 600-699 pounds were 458,000, 700-799 pounds were 628,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 419,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, up slightly from 2004, but down 10 percent from 2003.

Other disappearance totaled 74,000 during January, 21 percent below 2004 and 1 percent below 2003.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head represented 82.2 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2005, up from 81.5 percent on January 1, 2004.

Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2004 represented 85.3 percent all cattle marketed from feedlots in the United States, up from 85.1 percent during 2003

ANNUAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

2004 Commercial Livestock Slaughter

WEST VIRGINIA –Red meat production in commercial plants totaled 7.0 million pounds during 2004. This was 1 percent below the 2003 production of 7.1 million. The number of Federally and Non Federally inspected slaughter plants totaled 31 on January 1, 2005, down 3 plants from January 1, 2004.

West Virginia with 2003 Comparisons:

- **Beef production** - 9.17 million pounds, down 6 percent.
- **Cattle slaughtered** - 9,600 head, down 8 percent.
- **Pork production** - 2.13 million pounds, down 2 percent.
- **Hogs slaughtered** - 8,300 head, down 6 percent.

Average live weight of cattle slaughtered in 2004 was 953 pounds, up 14 pounds. The average live weight for hogs was 256 pounds, up 7 pounds.

Sheep and Lambs and Calves information was not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

UNITED STATES – Red meat production for the United States totaled 45.6 billion pounds in 2004, 2 percent below last year. Red meat includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Red meat production in **commercial plants** totaled 45.4 billion pounds. **On farm** production totaled 136 million pounds.

Beef production, at 24.7 billion pounds, was 6 percent below the previous year. **Veal production** totaled 176 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year, and set a new record low. **Pork production**, at 20.5 billion pounds, was 3 percent above last year, setting a new record high. **Lamb and mutton production** totaled 199 million pounds, falling 3 percent below the previous record low set a year ago.

Commercial cattle slaughter during 2004 totaled 32.7 million head, down 8 percent from 2003, with federal inspection comprising 98.2 percent of the total. The average live weight was 1,240 pounds, up 9 pounds from a year ago. **Steers** comprised 50.4 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter, **heifers** 32.2 percent, **dairy cows** 7.3 percent, **other cows** 8.4 percent, and **bulls** 1.7 percent.

Commercial calf slaughter totaled 842,400 head, down 16 percent from a year ago with 97.7 percent under federal inspection. The average live weight was 330 pounds, up 12 pounds from a year earlier.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 103 million head, up 3 percent from 2003 with 98.9 percent of the hogs slaughtered under federal inspection. The average live weight was up 1 pound from last year, at 267 pounds. **Barrows and gilts** comprised 96.6 percent of the total federally inspected slaughter.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter, at 2.84 million head, was down 5 percent from 2003 with 94.3 percent comprised by federal inspection. The average live weight was up 2 pounds from 2003 at 136 pounds.

There were 825 slaughtering plants under federal inspection on January 1, 2005 compared with 855 last year. Of these, 689 slaughtered at least one head of cattle during 2004 with 13 slaughtering almost 52 percent of the total cattle killed. Hogs were slaughtered at 664 plants, with 13 accounting for slightly over 58 percent of the total. Likewise, 13 of the 234 plants that slaughtered calves accounted for 83 percent of the total and 4 of the 500 plants that slaughtered sheep or lambs in 2004 comprised about 60 percent of the total head.

Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Texas accounted for almost 52 percent of the United States commercial red meat production in 2004, similar to 2003.

TROUT PRODUCTION

West Virginia Commercial Trout Sales Up

West Virginia—There were 31 operations that produced trout for sale and/or distribution in 2004. Twenty-one operations were commercial producers, while 16 operations distributed trout/trout eggs for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes. The 21 commercial trout producers in West Virginia had a total value of fish sales of 694 thousand dollars for the 12 month period from January 1, 2004 - December 31, 2004. This was a 45 percent increase from the 477 thousand dollars in fish sales during the same period in 2003. Fish 12 inches or longer accounted for 95 percent of total sales of fish sold. Trout losses for the period totaled 59,000 pounds, up from last year's 50,000 pounds.

The value of trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes is estimated at 2.16 million dollars, up 24 percent from the 2003 value of 1.74 million dollars.

United States—The total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers in the 20 selected States totaled 68.7 million dollars during 2004, an increase of 7 percent from 2003. Sales of fish totaled 63.9 million dollars for 2004, while egg sales totaled 4.83 million dollars. The State of Idaho accounted for 51 percent of the total value of fish sold.

The number of **trout 12 inches and longer** sold during 2004 totaled 47.5 million fish, up 3 percent from the previous year. The average price per pound, at 1.04, was unchanged from 2003. The value of sales for the 2004 marketing year was 57.1 million dollars, up 8 percent from 2003. Based on the dollar value, 72 percent were sold to processors and 18 percent were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments.

The number of **6"-12" trout** sold during 2004 totaled 5.53 million fish, a decrease of 14 percent from 2003. The average price per

pound was \$2.63 during 2004, up 13 cents from the 2003 price. The total value of sales was 5.84 million dollars during 2004, up 2 percent from the previous year. The major sales outlets for 6"-12" trout was to fee and recreational fishing establishments with 49 percent of the total sales, followed by government with 15 percent, and sales to other producers at 12 percent.

The number of **1"-6" trout** sold during 2004 totaled 5.55 million, a 25 percent decrease from the previous year. The average value per 1,000 fish was \$174.00 during 2004, a \$5.00 increase from 2003. The total value of sales was 966 thousand dollars, down 22 percent from last year's total.

Trout egg sales in 2004 totaled 290 million eggs, up 10 percent from the 264 million eggs sold during the previous year. The average value per 1,000 eggs during 2004 was \$16.70, up 90 cents from 2003. The total value of trout egg sales during 2004 was 4.83 million dollars, up 16 percent from the 4.18 million dollars in egg sales during the previous year.

To obtain a complete copy of any release published in this publication, please go to www.nass.usda.gov and click on publications. You may subscribe to receive an e-mail copy of all West Virginia releases, specific commodities releases, or just print a complete copy of a specific release.

Distributed Trout

Trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreational purposes, primarily by State and Federal hatcheries, included 10.2 million 12" or longer fish, 39.8 million 6"-12", and 75.8 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 64.8 million dollars, up 6 percent from 2003.

Losses of Fish

Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 21.9 million fish during 2004. The top three categories were 72.8 percent lost to disease, 12.1 percent to flooding, and 9.9 percent to predators. Losses to trout raised for distribution were primarily due to disease (74 percent) and predators (17 percent).

Next Issue:

**Livestock Slaughter
Chickens & Eggs
Milk Production
Prospective Planting- US Intentions
Agricultural Chemical Usage**

DALE R. KING, DIRECTOR

GUS R. DOUGLASS, COMMISSIONER

**United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305**